

# **Town of Groton, Connecticut**

45 Fort Hill Road Groton, CT 06340-4394 Town Clerk 860-441-6640 Town Manager 860-441-6630

# **Meeting Minutes**

# **Town Council**

Mayor Bruce S. Flax, Councilor Dean G. Antipas, Councilor Diane Barber, Councilor Greg Grim, Councilor Rich Moravsik, Councilor Karen F. Morton, Councilor Bonnie Nault, Councilor Deb Peruzzotti, and Councilors Harry A. Watson

Tuesday, December 20, 2016

7:30 PM

**Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1** 

### **REGULAR MEETING**

# I. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Mayor Flax, Councilor Antipas, Councilor Barber, Councilor Grim, Councilor Morton, Councilor Nault, Councilor Peruzzotti, Councilor Watson and Councilor Moravsik

Also present were the Town Manager Mark Oefinger and the Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher.

### II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

The Salute to the Flag was observed and led by Ron Yuhas.

# III. RECOGNITION, AWARDS & MEMORIALS

None

# IV. RECEIPT OF CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

Ron Yuhas, 91 South Road, stated that he is disappointed that he was the only person to attend the Committee of the Whole meeting to see how the Town Council plans to hire a new Town Manager. He stated that he is the President of the Poquonnock Bridge Fire District. He stated that the Fire District is always looking for ways to increase funding and that the Town Manager is experienced in this area. He expressed his hope that Mark Oefinger will assist the Town Council with his knowledge and influence in developing a plan. He stated that he hopes that the new Town Manager will have the same knowledge and will lead the Town Council in the right direction. He stated that he understands that the Committee of the Whole would like to hire an Assistant Town Manager. He stated that this position was looked at a year or two ago. He asked how that process was conducted. He asked if the Town had the funds to hire an Assistant Town Manager. He stated that he didn't want the Town Manager to go at this time, especially before budget time.

# V. RESPONSES TO CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

Town Manager Oefinger stated that solicitation for the position for Assistant Town Manager revealed five excellent candidates. The person that was offered the position ultimately declined the position. The current budget restraints and the projections for declining revenues dictated the delay in filling this position. The Council and the RTM cut the funding for this position in the FYE 2017 budget. He stated that the Council should decide if they would like to hire an Assistant Town Manager. He advised the Town Council to hire the Town Manager first, if they decide to hire an Assistant Town Manager.

# VI. CONSENT CALENDAR

Mayor Flax raised attention to the amount of individual donations given toward the Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program. He thanked everyone for their generous donations to all of the funds.

# a. Approval of Minutes

2016-0294 Approval of Minutes (Town Council)

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Town Council meeting of December 6, 2016 are hereby accepted and approved.

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.

# b. Administrative Items

# 2016-0290 Special Trust Fund Contributions

# RESOLUTION ACCEPTING CONTRIBUTIONS TO SPECIAL TRUST FUNDS

RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby accepts contributions to the Town as follows:

Catherine Hoffman - \$10.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving

Charter Oak Credit Untion - \$500.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving

Nina Nelson - \$10.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving

Groton Regional Theatre - \$500.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving

Jonathan Johnson - \$50.00 - Library Miscellaneous

Kathryn Miller - \$50.00 - Library Miscellaneous

Bernard Allen - \$100.00 - Groton Untilities Energy Assistance Program

Felipe & Irene Castro - \$10.00 - Groton Untilities Energy Assistance Program

David & Veronica Cousens - \$50.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program

Richard Davies - \$30.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program

Eastwood LLC - \$100.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program

Catherine Essex - \$10.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program

Darwin & Elizabeth Geronimo - \$10.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program

Diane & Dennis Haines - \$25.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program

Hickey Family - \$20.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program

Aimee Johnson - \$10.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program

Robert Kenyon - \$200.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program

Theofanis & Christina Lampos - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program

Carmen Molina-Vergara - \$25.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program

Joseph & Suzanne Natusch - \$50.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program

Patricia Pearce - \$30.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program

Pauline & Kevin Robillard - \$20.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program

Kyle & Ashlee Rowe - \$20.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program

Nidia & Bernard Somers - \$5.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program

Reginald & Wanda Teague - \$25.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program

Callie-Jean Tuthill - \$100.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program

Julia Willis - \$10.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program

Fred & Gail Yeo - \$200.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program

Robert Ashworth - \$100.00 - Social Services Discretionary

BPO Elks Lodge No. 2163 - \$1,000 - Social Services Discretionary

Cardinal Honda - \$368.00 - Social Services Discretionary

Matthew & Karen Morton - \$100.00 - Social Services Discretionary

Albet & Janiss Rudolph - \$100.00 - Social Services Discretionary

Lee Vincent - \$50.00 - Social Services Discretionary

Maria & Johnny Armaos - \$25.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program

Frances Award - \$50.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program

Christa Barber - \$10.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program

Raymond & Virgina Bousquet - \$20.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program

David Bowlus - \$25.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program

Josephine Bright - \$25.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program

Iris Dow - \$50.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program

John & Anne Hamilton - \$100.00 Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program

Elizabeth Kelly - \$1.25 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program

Cynthia Miffitt - \$25.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program

James Miller - \$20.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program

Lisa Moneypenny - \$25.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program

Armand & Nancy Morin - \$25.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Barbara & Linwood Navarro - \$20.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
John & Anne Potter - \$50.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Richard & Melinda Richardson - \$50.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Ernesto & Mary Soriano - \$200.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Emily Thomas - \$5.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Kathleen & David Vanner - \$50.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Barbara Weeman - \$10.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.

# c. Deletions from the Town Council Referral List

2016-0286	Contract Agreement Between the Groton Board of Education and the Association of Groton

**School Administrators** 

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.

2016-0177 City Highway Budget - FYE 2016

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2016-0287 Department of Transportation Easement - Route 1/South Road

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2016-0289 Groton Utilities DEEP Micro Grid Grant Application

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2016-0291 Request for Donation for Thames River Heritage Park Water Taxi (FYE 2018)

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2016-0292 Adoption of Ordinance to Amend the Enterprise Zone Ordinance

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2016-0293 Purchase of Historical Document

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

# **Passed The Consent Calendar**

A motion was made by Councilor Antipas, seconded by Councilor Morton, to adopt the Consent Calendar, including all the preceding items marked as having been adopted on the Consent Calendar. The motion carried unanimously

# VII. COMMUNICATIONS & REPORTS (Other than Committee Reports)

### a. Town Councilors

Councilor Nault reported that she attended the Mystic Boat Parade on November 26, 2016; the Economic Development Commission meeting on December 1, 2016; the Chamber and Builder Association dinner on December 2, 2016; the Groton Lights Parade on December 3, 2016; the Economic Development meeting with Groton, Groton City, and New London on December 3, 2016; a visit to RISE with David Perka on December 15, 2016; and the Coast Guard Museum preview on December 19, 2016.

Councilor Moravsik reported that on December 7, 2016 he attended the memorial service at the Flasher Memorial and he attended the memorial service for Joe Gingerella on December 17, 2016. He stated that he attended the Holland Club luncheon.

Mayor Flax reported the he attended the Shared Services Task Force meeting with the Board of Education on December 6, 2016. He attended a meeting with the City and Town Police Departments at the City Municipal building. He announced that the next City and Town Police meeting will be on January 5, 2016 8:00 p.m at the Town Hall Annex. He reported that he attended the Thames River Heritage Park meeting on December 4, 2016; the Sub-Base after hours

mixer on December 15, 2016; Carol Pratt's retirement party on December 15, 2016; and the U.S.S. Groton Sail Procurement Committee meeting on December 19, 2016. He reported that he had a call from a constituent regarding Lambtown Road street light outages, and he referred this issue to the Town Manager's office.

### b. Clerk of the Representative Town Meeting

Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher reported that the RTM last met on December 14, 2016 where they adopted their 2017 regular meeting schedule. She stated that Moderator Newsome reported that the Town Manager will retire effect March 10, 2017. She stated that Moderator Newsome read Town Council Referral 2016-0250, a resolution authorizing the Town Manager to enter into an agreement to convert town owned street and parking lot lighting to light-emitting diode lightbulbs(LED). She stated that he referred this matter to the Public Works Committee with a report due with their recommendation to the full RTM at the January, 11 2017 meeting. She announced that District 4 Rep. Christine Conley resigned from the RTM due to her recent election to the State House of Representatives. She reported the she had received a resignation from District 7 RTM Rep Bobbi Jo Cini due to health issues. She announced that the next regular RTM meeting is scheduled for January 11, 2017 at the Groton Senior Center at 7:30 p.m.

#### c. Clerk of the Council

Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher stated that she had contact with Rich Chioccola, the owner of R-J Manufacturing. She stated that he is looking for a larger space for his operation. He is currently renting a 1000sq. ft. space from Tim Tylaska at the Groton Business Park on Flanders Road. She stated that he is looking for a 3000 sq. ft. space. She stated that she referred the matter to the Economic Development Specialist Paige Bronk. She stated that she received another application for the Park's and Recreation Commission where there is currently one vacancy. She reported that she spent approximately 6 hours, along with other member of town staff, reviewing presentations from three legislative management software companies.

# d. Town Manager

Town Manager Mark Oefinger stated that he had some follow up information regarding the sale of Tilcon property to the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environment Protection. Mr. Stevens, a representative of DEEP, is willing to come to Groton to meet with the Town Council. He and the Town Council discussed possible dates to meet with Mr. Stevens.

# VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilor Watson gave a report on the December 7, 2016 Board of Education/Town & City Council/RTM Liaison Committee meeting. He stated that Dr. Graner gave an update on the Groton 2020 Plan. He reported that they adopted their 2017 meeting schedule. He reported that he will have a summary of the negotiated Administrators contract for the Committee of the Whole. He mentioned that the Town Public Works department is currently helping the Board of Education resolve a water drainage issues on the playground at Northeast Academy. He stated that they also discussed the mentor program and that information was passed on to the committee regarding some Electric Boat employees are to be offer tutoring. The draft report is on file at the Town Clerk's office.

# a. Personnel & Appointments - Chairman Watson

Chairman Watson summarized his report for the December 6, 2016 meeting and the November 4, 2016 meeting. Ed Eckelmeyer was recommended as a regular member to the Water Pollution Control Authority. He stated that Paul Watts was recommended for a regular member to the Shellfish Commission. He stated the David Williams and Laura Baller were recommended for reappointment to the Water Pollution Control Authority and William Gaynor to be reappointed to the Harbor Management Commission.

# b. Rules - Chairman Antipas

No meeting, no report.

# c. Committee of the Whole - Mayor Flax

Mayor Flax stated that the Committee of the Whole had met and that many of the items discussed at that meeting are on the agenda tonight.

Mayor Flax stated that the Committee of the Whole had met and that many of the items discussed at that meeting are on the agenda tonight.

Mayor Flax stated that he received a communication regarding a posting to hire a Office Assistant II to work at the Senior Center. There was a question about the level of pay for this position.

Councilor Morton explained that the posting for this position has a standard job description, is a union position, and the pay is set according to the position. She stated that the only question is whether the Senior Center needs this position.

Mayor Flax stated that the Town Council does not have to act on this issue.

Councilor Antipas stated that this position had been approved in the current budget and that the pay scale is decided by the administration.

#### IX. NEW BUSINESS

# 2016-0177 City Highway Budget - FYE 2016

# RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE RELEASE OF FUNDS TO THE CITY OF GROTON

RESOLVED, that the Town Council authorizes the release of \$748,451 to the City of Groton for the FYE 2016 City Highway budget pursuant to the arbitration award.

Town Manager Oefinger distributed information to the Town Council regarding this item. The information is on file in the Town Clerk's office.

Councilor Antipas made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Moravsik.

Councilor Antipas reviewed what the Town Council and RTM had approved for the FYE 2016 and that difference between the arbitration amount and the requested amount is approximately 94.3%. He stated that the \$95,000 would have been expended. He asked that he be given a moment to figure out if there is a difference greater than a few thousand dollars. He stated that he does not understand why the Town should bare total responsibility for the vehicles when the Town does not bare 100% of anything else in the City of Groton budget.

In response to Councilor Barber's question, Town Manager Oefinger explained that just like the Town, the City buys vehicles every year. The Town gives the City funds to purchase the vehicles in the same year budgeted. He stated that the City does not participate in the vehicle replacement fund. He stated that he expects that the City had other vehicles in mind to purchase this coming year.

Councilor Nault stated the she believes that the Town Council cut vehicles out of the Town budget. She stated that it seems like everyone should share the pain.

Town Manager Oefinger stated that over the years, we have never funded the entire request for vehicle purchases during the budget process. He stated that he could not recall which vehicles were cut in the Town's request and which were purchase in FYE 2016. He stated that he is sure that there were vehicles that were not replaced, but that he didn't have that information with him. He stated that if this request is not supported, that there will probably be an increase in the coming year. He explained that he knows that one of the vehicles that is within this request is a light duty dump truck, not meant for plowing but can be used for small snow plowing jobs. He stated that while the City has not spent this money, they had transferred this amount to their replacement reserve fund. He stated that this money is a portion of their Capitall Improvement Fund.

Councilor Nault stated that the City of Groton needs these vehicles in order to maintain the roads. Town Manager Oefinger agreed and stated that the City of Groton wanted to purchase these vehicles almost two years ago. He stated that it appears that they chose not to spend that money while there was a dispute. He stated that the Town Council could chose not to fund this, but he cautioned that there may be an increase in the City's request for the coming year.

Councilor Peruzzotti stated that her issue with this resolution is that the Town has a vehicle replacement fund that is support by each department. She stated that she does not understand why the City does not participate with the Town's vehicle replacement fund. She stated that the City requests a vehicle replacement every year. She stated that the request fluctuates greatly from year to year. She stated that she may support holding the funding back. She stated that they should discuss the City participating in the vehicle replacement fund so that the program can be better managed.

Councilor Antipas stated that this conversation might be more appropriate for the FYE 2017 budget which is still up in the air, but where FYE 2016 is concerned there has been an award. He stated that it was based on whether or not the \$830,000 and change was appropriately held back. He stated that the result of the award was simply that the award would be what ever was held back, less what is unexpended by the City. Initially, as of the end of June, 2016 there was \$123,000 and change and now it turns out to be more like \$176,000 and change. Either way, their requested budget ending FYE 2016 had two vehicles listed as part of their request for an appropriation of \$95,000. The Arbiter stated that the award is to be \$830,000 less whatever is left over.

Councilor Morton stated that the City has encumbered the fund to purchase these vehicles, but that technically the money has not been expended. She stated that the award clearly states that we can deduct funds that were not expended.

Town Manager Oefinger distributed more information regarding the City of Groton's Highway budget. He explained how the Town encumbers funds.

Councilor Watson stated that they have reduced the big requests for road paving in budgets.

Councilor Antipas reviewed the arbitration award and stated the if the Town Council funds \$658,451, we would be following the letter of the letter. He stated that the City would most likely put the request for replacement of these vehicles in their next budget request. He also reminded the Town Council that the \$830,292 has been sitting in wait for the decision from the arbitration.

#### 

# RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE RELEASE OF FUNDS TO THE CITY OF GROTON

RESOLVED, that the Town Council authorizes the release of \$653,451 to the City of Groton for the FYE 2016 City Highway budget pursuant to the arbitration award.

A motion was made by Councilor Nault, seconded by Councilor Morton, that this matter be Adopted as Amended.

Councilor Nault amended the motion to reflect the amount to be the actual expended amount of \$653,451. The motion was seconded by Councilor Morton.

Mayor Flax stated that the City did not purchase the two vehicles because they were not sure how the arbitration would end. He stated that one could review the option either way. He stated if you were looking to be a good neighbor, a good partner in the spirt of what the City is saying, they put these vehicles in their budget because they wanted to replace them. He stated that he would be fine giving them the \$95,000 as being it is in the sprit of being a good neighbor.

Councilor Nault stated that we must be fair to everyone. She stated that we have cut our budget pretty severely last year. She stated that if the arbiter said that we can keep the \$95,000, then we should keep it.

Councilor Grim stated that the Committee of the Whole voted to keep the vehicles in the figure.

Councilor Moravsik stated that he is in favor of keeping the vehicles in the award. He stated that if we don't put them in now, they will request them next year.

Town Manager Oefinger stated that Councilor Antipas was right, the letter is the letter. He stated that there should be an understanding on how encumbrances are handled. He suggested that maybe the Town Council should adopt the lower number and invite the City in to discuss it. He stated his concern with hanging their hat on the fleet fund issue. He stated that this should be discussed, but that in reality, we do not have any funds in the general fund for the fleet fund except for the Golf Course and the Water Pollution Control. The balance in the fleet fund really should belong to those two departments. He stated that the Council should not use this information in determining what to do with this item. He stated that the City did not spend the funds and that the letter states that we are only obligated to reimburse expenditures.

It was agreed that the Town Council would invite City of Groton Mayor Galbraith to discuss the \$95,000 vehicle fund request.

# The motion carried by the following vote:

**Votes:** In Favor: 6 - Councilor Antipas, Councilor Barber, Councilor Grim, Councilor Morton, Councilor Nault and Councilor Peruzzotti

Opposed: 3 - Mayor Flax, Councilor Watson and Councilor Moravsik

# 2016-0289 Groton Utilities DEEP Micro Grid Grant Application

# GROTON UTILITIES DEEP MICRO GRID GRANT APPLICATION

WHEREAS, Groton Utilities will be applying for a DEEP Micro Grid grant on behalf of the City and Town of Groton and will execute the project, and

WHEREAS, Groton Utilities will leverage its existing electric distribution system including existing state of the art emission complaint diesel generators to power the microgrid, and

WHEREAS, the goal for the microgrid design is to secure electric power supply to the most critical loads by engineering and introducing new capabilities that can isolate and link existing preferable generator resources to critical loads throughout Groton, and

WHEREAS, the Town of Groton as a critical load customer has provided input concerning critical facilities and that would be connected to the proposed microgrids, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Groton Town Council whole heartily expresses its support of Groton Utilities-DEEP Micro Grid Application and authorizes the Town Manager, Mark R. Oefinger, to prepare a letter of support and other requested documentation in support of Groton Utilities' Micro Grid Grand application to DEEP.

 $\label{lem:conded} \textbf{A} \ \textbf{motion} \ \textbf{was} \ \textbf{made} \ \textbf{by} \ \textbf{Councilor} \ \textbf{Morton}, \textbf{seconded} \ \textbf{by} \ \textbf{Councilor} \ \textbf{Peruzzotti}, \textbf{that} \ \textbf{this} \ \textbf{matter} \ \textbf{be} \ \textbf{Adopted}.$ 

The motion carried unanimously

# 2016-0287 Department of Transportation Easement - Route 1/South Road

RESOLUTION APPROVING AN EASEMENT AT 1268 POQUONNOCK ROAD FOR THE CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

WHEREAS, the Connecticut Department of Transportation (DOT) has requested a 386 square foot

easement over a portion of Town -owned property at 1268 Poquonnock Road for installation and maintenance of a guy wire to support a traffic signalization device, and

WHEREAS, DOT has offered the Town \$500.00 in exchange for the easement rights, and

WHEREAS, the Town's Public Works Department has determined that the easement and guy wire installation will not affect current or planned operations at the sewer pump station located on the site, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council authorizes Town Manager Mark R. Oefinger to sign and process paperwork necessary to grant an easement at 1268 Poquonnock Road to the Connecticut Department of Transportation (DOT) as depicted on a map provided by DOT in a letter dated October 28, 2016.

#### Discussed

# 2016-0287 Department of Transportation Easement - Route 1/South Road

RESOLUTION APPROVING AN EASEMENT AT 1286 POQUONNOCK ROAD FOR THE CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

WHEREAS, the Connecticut Department of Transportation (DOT) has requested a 386 square foot easement over a portion of Town -owned property at 1286 Poquonnock Road for installation and maintenance of a guy wire to support a traffic signalization device, and

WHEREAS, DOT has offered the Town \$500.00 in exchange for the easement rights, and

WHEREAS, the Town's Public Works Department has determined that the easement and guy wire installation will not affect current or planned operations at the sewer pump station located on the site, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council authorizes Town Manager Mark R. Oefinger to sign and process paperwork necessary to grant an easement at 1286 Poquonnock Road to the Connecticut Department of Transportation (DOT) as depicted on a map provided by DOT in a letter dated October 28, 2016 and with the address verified by Town staff.

A motion was made by Councilor Watson, seconded by Councilor Nault, that this matter be Adopted as Amended.

The motion carried unanimously

# 2016-0291 Request for Donation for Thames River Heritage Park Water Taxi (FYE 2018)

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A \$10,000 DONATION FOR THE THAMES RIVER HERITAGE PARK WATER TAXI PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the Town of Groton has received a request from the Thames River Heritage Park Steering Committee to continue its support by joining the City of Groton and the City of New London in donating \$10,000 each to the Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments for a water taxi program during the next fiscal year (FYE 2018), and

WHEREAS, the Town Council recognizes that the water taxi "season" falls in both FYE 2017 and FYE 2018, and

WHEREAS, there is a balance in Contingency of \$364,810 as of November 30th, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that \$10,000 be transferred from General Fund Contingency (1074) to Legislative (1001) for the Thames River Heritage Park water taxi program.

Refer to RTM

A motion was made by Councilor Peruzzotti, seconded by Councilor Nault, that this matter be Adopted and Referred to the Representative Town Meeting.

The motion carried unanimously

### 2016-0292 Adoption of Ordinance to Amend the Enterprise Zone Ordinance

ADOPTION OF AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE ENTERPRISE ZONE ORDINANCE (#229)

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF GROTON THAT:

- 1. Ordinance # 229, adopted July 18, 1995 and codified at § 14.5-3 of the Code of Ordinances, shall be amended by adding the following thereto:
- a. (e)(1). Per Connecticut General Statutes § 32-71(e), the Town of Groton, acting through its Town Council, in its complete discretion, may approve additional tax abatements or deferrals of real property taxes for properties within the enterprise zone created by subsection (a) of Ordinance #229, on such terms and subject to such conditions that the Town Council deems necessary to achieve the purposes of the enterprise zone as manifested in Ordinance # 229 and in General Statutes Chapter 585, including § 32-71(a) through (e).
- b. (e)(2). An applicant for additional tax abatements or deferrals pursuant to this subsection (e) shall comply with all Town of Groton requirements for applications for tax abatements and deferrals under subsection (b) of this Ordinance and under the Town's Enterprise Zone Description of Tax Benefits for Residential Properties and/or Enterprise Zone Guidelines, and shall provide the Town Council such other information in such forms as the Town Council requests in support of its application.
- c. (e)(3). No such additional abatement or deferral shall be effective unless it is set out in a written agreement between the Town and the taxpayer that is approved by the Town Council upon the recommendation of the Town Manager, the Assessor, and the Director of the Office of Planning and Development Services, and is approved as to form and legal sufficiency by the Town Attorney. Any such agreement, whether for an abatement and/or for a deferral, shall be expressly subject to all requirements of §§ (b)(2-8), inclusive, of Ordinance #229, and all requirements of General Statutes §§ 32-71(b) through (e), inclusive. Any such written agreement shall include provisions requiring the taxpayer to provide the Town with written reports at least annually containing information necessary for the Town to determine whether the taxpayer has continued to meet all eligibility requirements hereunder. No such agreement shall have a term longer than twenty (20) years from the date of the issuance of a certificate of occupancy for the improvements upon which it is based, inclusive of any period during which the assessments and/or deferrals provided by subsection (b) of this Ordinance are in effect.
- d. Any agreement entered into between the Town and a taxpayer pursuant to § (e)(3) hereof shall be recorded on the Land Records of the Town of Groton.
- e. This Ordinance Amendment shall be effective forty-five (45) days after its enactment by the Town Council, unless vetoed by the RTM.

Councilor Watson made a motion to approve the Adoption of Ordinance to Amend the Enterprise Zone Ordinance. The motion was seconded by Councilor Moravsik.

Town Manager Oefinger suggested that the ordinance be amended to include the Tax Collector in section c. (e)(3).

2016-0292 Adoption of Ordinance to Amend the Enterprise Zone Ordinance

ADOPTION OF AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE ENTERPRISE ZONE ORDINANCE (#229)

#### BE IT ORDAINED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF GROTON THAT:

- 1. Ordinance # 229, adopted July 18, 1995 and codified at § 14.5-3 of the Code of Ordinances, shall be amended by adding the following thereto:
- a. (e)(1). Per Connecticut General Statutes § 32-71(e), the Town of Groton, acting through its Town Council, in its complete discretion, may approve additional tax abatements or deferrals of real property taxes for properties within the enterprise zone created by subsection (a) of Ordinance #229, on such terms and subject to such conditions that the Town Council deems necessary to achieve the purposes of the enterprise zone as manifested in Ordinance # 229 and in General Statutes Chapter 585, including § 32-71(a) through (e).
- b. (e)(2). An applicant for additional tax abatements or deferrals pursuant to this subsection (e) shall comply with all Town of Groton requirements for applications for tax abatements and deferrals under subsection (b) of this Ordinance and under the Town's Enterprise Zone Description of Tax Benefits for Residential Properties and/or Enterprise Zone Guidelines, and shall provide the Town Council such other information in such forms as the Town Council requests in support of its application.
- c. (e)(3). No such additional abatement or deferral shall be effective unless it is set out in a written agreement between the Town and the taxpayer that is approved by the Town Council upon the recommendation of the Town Manager, the Assessor, the Tax Collector, and the Director of the Office of Planning and Development Services, and is approved as to form and legal sufficiency by the Town Attorney. Any such agreement, whether for an abatement and/or for a deferral, shall be expressly subject to all requirements of §§ (b)(2-8), inclusive, of Ordinance #229, and all requirements of General Statutes §§ 32-71(b) through (e), inclusive. Any such written agreement shall include provisions requiring the taxpayer to provide the Town with written reports at least annually containing information necessary for the Town to determine whether the taxpayer has continued to meet all eligibility requirements hereunder. No such agreement shall have a term longer than twenty (20) years from the date of the issuance of a certificate of occupancy for the improvements upon which it is based, inclusive of any period during which the assessments and/or deferrals provided by subsection (b) of this Ordinance are in effect.
- d. Any agreement entered into between the Town and a taxpayer pursuant to § (e)(3) hereof shall be recorded on the Land Records of the Town of Groton.
- e. This Ordinance Amendment shall be effective forty-five (45) days after its enactment by the Town Council, unless vetoed by the RTM.

A motion was made by Councilor Antipas, seconded by Councilor Nault, that this matter be Adopted as Amended.

Councilor Antipas made a motion to amend the Ordinance to include the Tax Collector in section c. (e)(3). The motion to amend was seconded by Councilor Nault.

The motion carried unanimously

# 2016-0293 Purchase of Historical Document

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A TRANSFER FROM CONTINGENCY FOR THE PURCHASE OF AN HISTORICAL DOCUMENT

WHEREAS, Town Historian James Streeter has made the Town Council aware of an historical document described as "a manuscript copy of the agreement between the Connecticut towns of New London and Groton, agreed upon at a general assembly in Hartford, establishing Groton as an independent town" that is being offered for sale by an on-line book seller, and

WHEREAS, Mr. Street has negotiated a price for the documented of \$2,250, and it is estimated that an additional \$250 will be needed for archival framing of the document, and

WHEREAS, the Town Council finds that the document would be a valuable addition to the local history collection at the Groton Public Library, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that \$2,500 be transferred from General Fund Contingency (1074) to Legislative (1001) for the purchase of an historical document.

A motion was made by Councilor Grim, seconded by Councilor Nault, that this matter be Adopted. The motion carried unanimously

Councilor Watson made a motion to suspend the Town Council rules in order to add the appointment of the Town Council as the personnel search committee for a new Town Manager and to appoint and reappoint various board and commission members. The motion was seconded by Councilor Perruzzotti. The motion carried unanimously.

# 2016-0306 Resolution Appointing Personnel Search Committee

RESOLUTION APPOINTING PERSONNEL SEARCH COMMITTEE

WHEREAS, the Town Council has the responsibility under the Town Charter to choose the Town Manager, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council appoints Bruce Flax, Dean Antipas, Diane Barber, Gregory Grim, Rich Moravsik, Karen Morton, Bonnie Nault, Deb Peruzzotti, and Harry Watson to serve as the Personnel Search Committee for the purpose of recruiting and selecting a Town Manager.

A motion was made by Councilor Watson, seconded by Councilor Peruzzotti, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

# 2016-0302 Resolution Appointing Edward H. Eckelmeyer to the Water Pollution Control Authority

RESOLUTION APPOINTING EDWARD H. ECKELMEYER TO THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY

RESOLVED, that Edward H. Eckelmeyer, 75 High Street, Noank, is hereby appointed to the Water Pollution Control Authority for a term expiring 5/24/17.

A motion was made by Councilor Watson, seconded by Councilor Peruzzotti, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

# 2016-0304 Resolutioni Appointing Paul C. Watts to the Shellfish Commission

RESOLUTION APPOINTING PAUL C. WATTS TO THE SHELLFISH COMMISSION

Resolution appointing Paul C. Watts, 61 Daniel Brown Drive, Mystic, to the Shellfish Commission as a regular member with a term expiring 12/31/2018.

 $\label{lem:conded} \textbf{A} \ \textbf{motion} \ \textbf{was} \ \textbf{made} \ \textbf{by} \ \textbf{Councilor} \ \textbf{Veruzzotti}, \ \textbf{that} \ \textbf{this} \ \textbf{matter} \ \textbf{be} \ \textbf{Adopted}.$ 

The motion carried unanimously

# 2016-0305 Resoultion Reappointing David G. Williams to the Water Pollution Control Authority

RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING DAVID G. WILLIAMS TO THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY

Resolution reappointing David G. Williams, 129 Elm Street, Noank, to the Water Pollution Control Authority with a term expiring on 5/24/19.

A motion was made by Councilor Watson, seconded by Councilor Peruzzotti, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

# 2016-0303 Resolution Reappointing Laura Baller to the Water Pollution Control Authority

RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING LAURA BALLER TO THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY

RESOLVED, that Laura Baller, 30 Brook Street, is hereby reappointed to the Water Pollution Control Authority for a term ending 5/24/19.

A motion was made by Councilor Watson, seconded by Councilor Peruzzotti, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

# 2016-0307 Resolution Reappointing William G. Gaynor to the Harbor Management Commission

RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING WILLIAM G. GAYNOR TO THE HARBOR MANAGEMENT COMMISSION

RESOLVED, that William G. Gaynor, 377 Tyler Avenue, is hereby reappointed to the Harbor Management Commission for a term ending 09/01/19.

A motion was made by Councilor Watson, seconded by Councilor Peruzzotti, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

# X. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Flax adjourned the meeting at 9:18 p.m.

Attest:

Betsy Moukawsher Groton Town Clerk Clerk of the Council